



The Connecticut Commission on Aging is an independent state agency solely devoted to enhancing the lives of our state's older adults and preparing for their secure future. In carrying out its mission, the Commission leads public/private-sector efforts to promote and improve public policy on issues including health care, long-term care, transportation, financial security, housing, employment, legal assistance and many others.

The Commission was created by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1993. It fills a unique role within state government by building bridges, opening dialogue and seeking solutions between influential groups including the legislative and executive branches of state government; local government; the business community; state and local organizations that serve critical needs of the elderly; and statewide public/private sector coalitions such as the Connecticut Elder Action Network and Connecticut Long-term Care Advisory Council.

In filling its statutory role as an independent advocate for the elderly, the Commission serves as a vital communications link between Connecticut's citizens and the often complex workings of the governmental process.

The Commission's 17 citizen "voting" members are appointed by state legislators or the governor. The Commission also includes 16 ex officio members—four state senators and four state representatives from both parties who hold leadership positions on the Select Committee on Aging or the Human Services Committee—and eight commissioners from state agencies including the Department of Social Services. The Commission also includes two full-time staff professionals—the executive director and communications director—and two interns.

The Commission is an independent agency that, for administrative purposes, is part of the legislative branch of state government.

Commission members are appointed because of their desire to help make life better for today's older adults and the millions who will join the senior-citizen ranks in the years ahead. Commission members have personal and professional commitments to ensure that older adults are well represented by public policy and services that support and enhance their quality of life.

To achieve its goals, the Commission:

Independently, or more often by building bridges with other organizations and individuals, proposes, supports and/or critiques legislation that will improve the quality of life for older residents. For example, the Commission has taken a leadership role in forming public/private-sector partnerships such as the Connecticut Elder Action Network and serves as chair and manager for the Long-Term Care Advisory Council.

Meets regularly with—and serves as a resource to—representatives of state agencies, other state officials and legislators to review and comment on policies, budgets and procedures that affect the elderly.

Reviews and comments on the budget of the State Unit on Aging within the Department of Social Services.

Issues an annual report to the governor, General Assembly and legislative body of each municipality in the state on its findings and recommendations on issues affecting the elderly.

Holds statewide public hearings to gather local residents' opinions on issues that affect them and prepares reports for the legislature and governor reflecting those views.

Provides information on issues facing the elderly to the business and education community, state and local governments and the news media.

In all of its work as an independent entity, the Commission's activities involve a public trust and confidence.